

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Fall 2007



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October, November, December 2007

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John W. Parris
State Director,
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Editor

Lexington FFA Members Contribute Poinsettias to Decorate Governor's Mansion



Lexington FFA Advisor Tommy Harmon (left) with FFA members Lindsey Motes, Travis Jolly, Andrew Chandler, Gerad Mintz, Patrick Williams, Will Amick, First Lady Jenny Sanford, other FFA members Suzette Sharpe, Hannah Kyzer, Kristen Attaway, Cameron Rikard, Timothy Roark, Amanda Kyzer, and Lexington Technology Center Assistant Director Bryce Myers.

FFA members who are enrolled in Horticulture courses at the Lexington Technology Center continued their five-year tradition of providing poinsettias to decorate the Governor's Mansion for the Christmas Season when they delivered the beautiful plants on Monday, November 26.

The students and Horticulture Science Instructor Tommy Harmon along with Bryce Myers, Assistant Director of the Technology Center, presented the plants to First Lady Jenny Sanford at the Mansion in preparation for decoration of the historic landmark by Columbia Garden Club members.

Following the presentation, Mrs. Sanford welcomed the group into the Mansion where they were served iced tea before being given an interesting tour by Nancy Bunch, an official at the Governor's Mansion and an accomplished historian.

The poinsettias were grown by the students in the technology center's new state-of-the-art greenhouse as part of their hands-on training in Horticulture and Greenhouse Operation.



Will Amick, First Lady Jenny Sanford and Suzette Sharpe being interviewed by TV reporter.



Aiken High School Horticulture Instructor Meghan McPhail (left) with FFA member Becky Sheppard; Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Larry Boylston; Becky Walton, Director of Public Information with the Department; and FFA members Connor Bennett and Erin Hayes.

Aiken FFA Provide Poinsettias to SC Department of Agriculture

Aiken FFA members delivered poinsettias to the SC Department of Agriculture in December to decorate some of the administrative offices in preparation for the Christmas season.

The students grew the plants in the high school Horticulture Department's greenhouses as part of their hands-on training in plant production and marketing.

This was the first time the FFA members had provided poinsettias to the SC Department of Agriculture.

SC FFA Members Named National FFA Scholars

Five South Carolina FFA members were named National FFA Scholars by the National FFA Foundation in 2007 and were awarded impressive scholarships.

Cameron Burns, a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter, received a \$2500 scholarship from Chevrolet. Other winners were: **Joshua Boatwright**, a member of the Ridge Spring-Monetta FFA Chapter, who received \$1500 from Monsanto and the National Farm Broadcasters Association; **Heather Coleman**, a member of the Latta Chapter, who received \$1500 from Monsanto and the National Farm Broadcasters Association; **Lydia Roof**, a member of the Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter, who received \$1000 from Dodge Trucks; and **Drew Culp**, a member of the York Chapter, who received \$1000 from Champion Laboratories, Inc./Luber-finer.

SC FFA Members Receive National Recognition

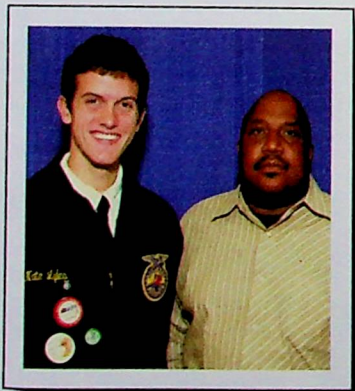
Chris Bagwell, a member and officer of the Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter, was named the national winner of the Hobart-sponsored Welding Challenge held at the National FFA Convention Career Show in Indianapolis, Indiana in October.



Bagwell took top honors in the welding competition which was participated in by 20,000 FFA members from across the nation. He was awarded an Auto-Shade welding helmet and a pair of Hobart welding gloves. His FFA Advisor is **Glenn Stevens**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Belton-Honea Path High School.

Chris Bagwell (left) with FFA Advisor Glenn Stevens

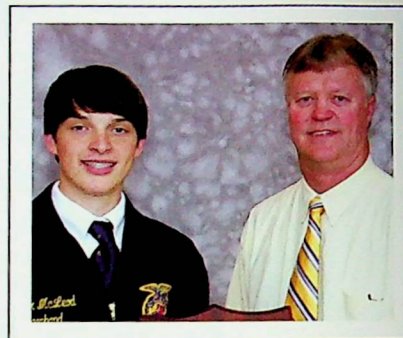
Nate Lyles, president of the Manning High School FFA Chapter, addressed the National FFA Chapter Awards and Recognition Banquet held during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October.



In his remarks, Nate shared the success story of South Carolina FFA Chapters participating in the Million Cans of Food for the Hungry Challenge co-sponsored by the National FFA Alumni and Toyota USA. The Manning FFA Chapter took top honors in the food drive. Nate's FFA advisor is **Michael Haynes**.

Nate Lyles (left) with FFA Advisor Michael Haynes

Spencer C. McLeod, State FFA President and a member of the McBee Chapter, was named a semi-finalist in the National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking competition held at the National FFA Convention in October. The extemporaneous speaking competition is among the most challenging of all the career development events sponsored by the National FFA Organization.

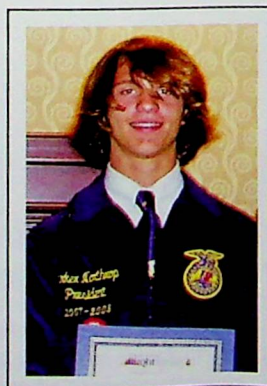


Spencer placed third in the National Agricultural Communication and Leadership competition sponsored by the National Young Farmer Education Association and John Deere at a national conference held in Tucson, Arizona in December. His FFA advisor is **Pat Earle**.

Spencer McLeod (left) with FFA Advisor Pat Earle

Parker Northrop, a senior at Strom Thurmond High School and president of the Thurmond Technology Center FFA Chapter, was awarded a \$500 scholarship as a Gold Emblem winner in the National FFA Environmental/Natural Resources Career Development Event held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention in October. He was one of the top ten scorers in the national competition. His coach was **Hugh Bland**, an FFA advisor at Thurmond.

The national competition is sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Smithfield Foods as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



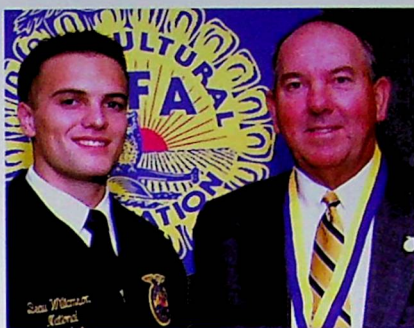
Parker Northrop

South Carolinians Receive Top National FFA Award

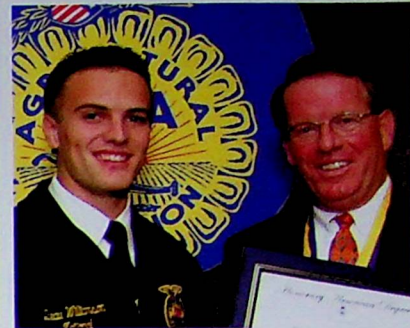
Four distinguished friends and supporters of the FFA and Agricultural Education in South Carolina were awarded the coveted Honorary American FFA Degree during a nationally televised ceremony at the 2007 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Those who received the prestigious award were FFA alumnus Tom Welsh of Columbia, Executive Vice President of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank; FFA alumnus and past State FFA President Dr. Tom Dobbins of Townville, program coordinator and professor of Agricultural Education at Clemson University; FFA alumnus Larry E. Greer of Anderson, a retired Agricultural Educator in Anderson School District Five and presently serving as a member of the Anderson County Council; and FFA alumnus Steve McCannon of Pendleton, Agricultural Education Instructor at the B.J. Skelton Career Center in Easley.

Mrs. Betty A. Stover of Pelion, a long-time supporter of the FFA and executive assistant to the SC FFA Foundation for the past 24 years, was presented the prestigious award during a special ceremony at the State Capitol in Columbia on February 20 during National FFA Week. She is the wife of retired state director of Agricultural Education Frank R. Stover, Sr., who serves as the executive director of the SC FFA Foundation. Their son, Frank R. Stover, Jr., is the Agricultural Education Instructor at Pelion High School.

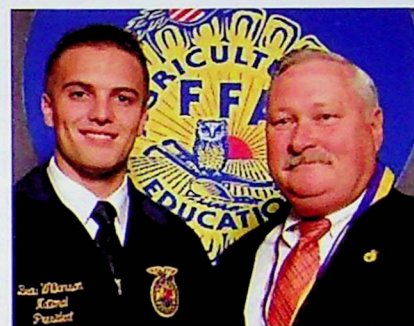
The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest award presented by the 500,000 member National FFA Organization.



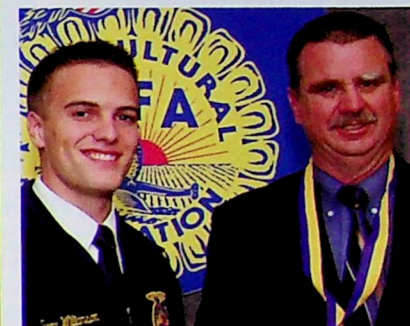
National FFA President Beau Williamson (left) congratulates Tom Welsh.



National FFA President Beau Williamson (left) congratulates Dr. Tom Dobbins.



National FFA President Beau Williamson (left) congratulates Larry E. Greer.



National FFA President Beau Williamson (left) congratulates Steve McCannon.

SC Students Awarded American FFA Degree

Ten South Carolina FFA members were awarded the American FFA Degree at the 2007 National FFA Convention.

Those receiving the prestigious honor were: Amy Williams, a member of the West Oak FFA Chapter and president of the Clemson University Collegiate FFA Organization; Rachel Sue Brandt, Matthew B. Dorn and Noah Keith Johnson, members of the Calhoun Falls Chapter; Amanda Hiott, a member of the Barnwell County Career Center Chapter and immediate past president of the SC FFA Association; Jason Gore, a member of the Loris Chapter and past state FFA officer; Jessica Hook, a member of the Lexington Technology Center Chapter; Antonia Lowman and Megan Spivey, members of the Aiken Chapter; and Chrissie Segars, a member of the McBee Chapter.

The American FFA Degree is the highest award presented by the National FFA Organization to a select number of the nation's outstanding members.



National FFA President Beau Williamson congratulates Mrs. Betty A. Stover.

West Virginia FFA Members Tour Sumter County Farms

A chartered bus with 51 FFA members, agricultural education instructors, school administrators and parents from Greenbrier High School in Lewisburg, West Virginia, arrived in Sumter, SC, on October 16 to visit a cotton and peanut farm.

Their first stop was at the Triple C Farms where they were greeted by Sammy Burrows who discussed the production, harvesting and marketing of cotton. He also demonstrated the operation of a mechanical cotton harvester.

The second stop was at the Triple J Farms owned by Whit James where they observed the harvesting of peanuts.

The tour was coordinated by John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA and conducted by Sumter Agricultural Educator John Weathers and Associate State Director of Agricultural Education Steve Sanderson.

Refreshments were provided by the FFA chapters at Sumter County Career Center, Crestwood High School and Lakewood High School. All of the FFA advisors in the county were on hand to welcome the group to Sumter County.

The Greenbrier FFA Chapter makes a stop in South Carolina every four years as they travel to the Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia. "This is the first time most of the students have seen cotton or peanuts being harvested," said Greenbrier FFA Advisor Woody Hanna.



Greenbrier FFA Advisor Woody Hanna (left) and FFA members Jeremy Morgan, Joey Atkins and Will Dalton with John Weathers.



Swedish and Finnish Exchange Students Experience the FFA at National Convention

Each year the National FFA Convention unites people from every corner of the United States...from Alaska to Puerto Rico and Maine to Hawaii. This year attendees from each of the 50 states and US territories were joined by Frida Edstrom of Sweden and Sointu Lampinen of Finland.

Edstrom and Lampeine, both 17, are international exchange students at Branchville High School, Branchville, SC. They were recruited by Branchville FFA members during the first week of school and immediately felt a sense of belonging.

At the National FFA Convention, that sense of belonging was magnified as the two marveled at the sea of blue jackets, the bright smiles and general camaraderie among FFA members.

"I think it is very good that everyone has a jacket so we can see where they are from and talk and compare experiences," Lampinen said.

Edstrom's first impression of the national convention was amazement at the sheer number of participants and how everyone is so nice and friendly. Both girls enjoyed being asked for their signatures as representatives from South Carolina and laughed at people's reaction upon hearing their accent.

"They have beautiful accents," said Pat Black, Advisor of the Branchville FFA Chapter. "In fact, with their Scandinavian accents and our southern accents, it's been a great mix."

Both Edstrom and Lampinen speak English fluently but there are times when extra clarification is necessary with new vocabulary words.

"Often I see them in the back of class thumbing through their dictionaries," Mr. Black said. When that occurs, he makes sure to spend extra one-on-one time ensuring that all class material is understood.

"We understand that the agriculture vocabulary they are developing in class is not as fluent as other students who were reared on a farm," Black added.

Black said the Scandinavians are a delight to have in the classroom. The girls enjoy teaching their classmates about Sweden and Finland. In turn, Branchville FFA members share information about agriculture, South Carolina and life in the United States.

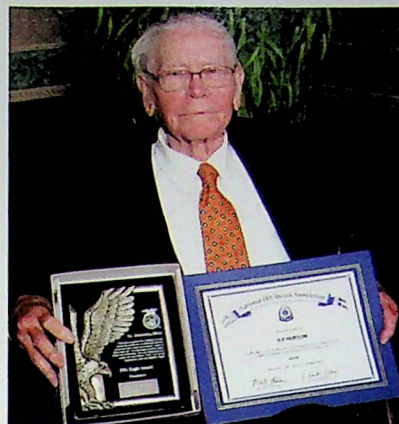
In Sweden, Edstrom lives in a city as does Lampinen in Finland, making South Carolina their first exposure to a rural lifestyle. In spite of their inexperience in agriculture, they are eager and willing students.

Despite trends in other countries, the diverse agriculture industry in the United States is strong and thriving--as evidenced by the bustling activities at the National FFA Convention. The Scandinavians say that the National FFA Convention will be one of the best memories of their year abroad.

Written by Jamie Smidt, National FFA Organization



Pat Black, Branchville High School FFA Advisor, with International Exchange students and Branchville FFA members Frida Edstrom (center) from Sweden and Sointu Lampinen from Finland.



S.F. Horton

HORTON RECOGNIZED BY FFA

S.F. Horton of Loris, SC, was awarded Life Membership in the 46,000 member National FFA Alumni Organization at a luncheon ceremony held in conjunction with FFA Day at the State Fair in October. The presentation was made by **Scott Morfeld**, an official with the National FFA Alumni Office in Indianapolis, Indiana, and **Dr. Tom Dobbins**, Agricultural Education Program Coordinator and professor at Clemson University. Mr. Horton was nominated for this prestigious recognition by long-time friend **John W. Parris**, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association.

During the ceremony, State FFA President **Spencer C. McLeod** of McBee, SC, and the other state officers presented Mr. Horton with the National FFA Eagle Award in recognition of his long and distinguished support of Agricultural Education and the FFA.

Mr. Horton grew up on a farm near Jefferson, SC, in Chesterfield County in the 1920's. He was selected to represent Jefferson High School at the organizational meeting of the **Future Palmetto Farmers** held at the State Fair Grounds in Columbia in October 1927. The South Carolina agricultural youth organization became a charter member of the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) when it was established in 1928. The 1927 meeting at the State Fair and the meeting where he was honored in October 2007 were held on the same day, October 17.

In 1928, Mr. Horton enrolled in Clemson College (now Clemson University) to major in Agricultural Education. Upon graduation in 1932, he began his professional career as an Agricultural Educator. Most of his teaching career was in Loris before becoming a full-time farmer and establishing a successful farm supply business.

At 96 years of age, Mr. Horton is now retired but often takes a ride over his farm to observe the crops being grown. Some years ago, Clemson University presented him with the coveted Distinguished Service Award and named him one of the 100 most outstanding Agricultural Alumni during the first one hundred years of Clemson's history by designating him a Distinguished Centennial Agricultural Alumnus.

FFA MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY



Frank Saldana (left), Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni; State FFA Officers **Heather Coleman**, **Spencer C. McLeod**, **Desiree Kinneer**, **Brittany Mixson** and **William Nelson** and **Scott Morfeld**, an official with the National FFA Alumni.

The **Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization** and high school chapters throughout the state participated in the *Million Cans of Food For the Hungry Challenge* by contributing more than 15,000 cans of food for less fortunate people in time for Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays. The national challenge was promoted by the National FFA Alumni and funded by Toyota USA.

Clemson's Collegiate FFA was joined by the Ag Mechanization Club, the Collegiate Equine Club, the Dairy Science Club, the Block and Bridle Club, the Biological Engineering Club, the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and the Applied Economics Club to successfully collect and distribute 12,394 cans to the Heaven of Rest Ministries in Anderson and Helping Hands Food Bank in Six Mile.

The Clemson Collegiate FFA group was awarded \$700 for taking top honors in collecting 9282 cans. Other cash awards included \$500 to the Clemson Ag Mechanization Club; \$300 to the Collegiate Equine Club and \$150 to the Dairy Science Club.

Thirteen FFA chapters participated in the secondary school category by providing 3328 cans to the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia. The **Manning** Chapter took top honors by contributing more than 1300 cans and earned a \$600 National FFA Supply Center gift certificate and a scholarship for one of their members to attend the National FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. The runner-up winner was the **Pelion** Chapter which received a \$500 gift certificate. The **Latta** Chapter earned a \$400 gift certificate as the third high contributor. The **Aiken** and **Saluda** Chapters were each awarded a scholarship for one of their members to attend the National FFA Leadership Conference.

Officials from the National FFA Alumni Office and Toyota USA attended the presentation of food ceremonies in Columbia and at Clemson.



National FFA Collegiate Program Leader **Jeff Papke** (left); **Frank Saldana**, Executive Director of the National FFA Alumni Organization; Clemson University Collegiate FFA members **Kate Crouch** and **Katherine Keller**; **Chris Young**, an official with Ralph Hayes Toyota in Anderson; Collegiate FFA president **Amy Williams**; **Chrissie Segars**, **Clair Davenport** and **Chris Bellamy**. **Dr. Tom Dobbins**, Program Coordinator of Agricultural Education at Clemson University is at right.

SC FFA Participation In Clemson's Ag Tailgate Event

Hundreds of FFA members and their advisors participated in the Clemson University College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences AG TAILGATE event held prior to the Clemson-Wake Forest football game on November 10th. The FFA members were recognized during the football game over the speakers and on the score board.

State FFA President Spencer C. McLeod presented a gift basket to President and Mrs. James Barker during the program on behalf of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences and McLeod Farms.

Clover FFA member Flint Holbrook displayed his Biodiesel production equipment as a part of the Clemson Collegiate FFA Organization's exhibit which took first place honors at the Tailgate event.

National FFA officials Frank Saldana and Jeff Papke along with State FFA President Spencer C. McLeod and parents Kemp and Gaie McLeod and John W. Parris were guests of President and Mrs. Barker in the President's Box during the game.

The theme of the President's Box was The Peach. Dr. Alan Sams, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences, unveiled some impressive Peach Art in keeping with the theme of the day.



Spencer C. McLeod presents President and Mrs. James Barker with gift basket.



Clover FFA member Flint Holbrook is greeted by Clemson President James Barker and Mrs. Marcia Barker during the Ag Tailgate event.



Dean Alan Sams and Spencer McLeod display Peach Art in President's Box.

Parris Agricultural Endowment Established at Clemson

Dr. Alan Sams, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences at Clemson University, has announced that **Dr. and Mrs. H. Wayne Beam** of Columbia, SC have contributed \$25,000 to the Clemson Foundation to establish the **John W. Parris Agricultural Leadership Endowment**. Scholarship funds generated from the endowment will be awarded to students majoring in agriculture or natural resources who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and superb leadership skills.

Dr. Beam, a native of Chester, SC and an Agricultural Education student of Mr. Parris at Chester High School in the 1960s, was an active member and president of the Chester FFA Chapter. Upon graduation from Clemson University, Dr. Beam earned an MS Degree from Auburn University and a PhD in environmental science from North Carolina State University. His professional career began as deputy director of the SC Land Resources Commission which was headed up by Mr. Parris. Dr. Beam later served as the founding executive director of the SC Coastal Council until his retirement from state government. He is currently president of Beam and Associates, a nationally recognized environmental and governmental affairs consulting firm headquartered in Columbia, SC.

Mr. Parris, a native of Spartanburg County and a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Agricultural Education, served as an agricultural educator in Chester and Anderson, SC, before heading up the SC Land Resources Commission for many years until his retirement. The first South Carolinian named to the Conservation Hall of Fame by the National Association of Conservation Districts, Parris is also a recipient of the National Professional Conservationist Award. Since retirement, he has served as state director of public affairs for Agricultural Education in South Carolina and editor of the Agricultural Education magazine, AGRI-BIZ for twelve years.



Dr. H. Wayne Beam (left) with John W. Parris and Dr. Alan Sams

Aynor and Pelion FFA Soil Teams in National Finals

The **Aynor** and **Pelion** Soil Judging Teams took top honors in the state competition and will participate in the National Land Judging Finals in Oklahoma, May 5-7, 2008. Both teams were awarded trips to the National Land Judging Finals in Oklahoma.

The Aynor team was first in the state competition with Daniel Rabon, high individual scorer, being awarded a trip to the National FFA Convention and Cameron Flowers, the second high individual scorer, receiving a watch. Team Advisor, Stacey Bazen, was also awarded a trip to the National Finals.

Pelion's Team was Runner-Up with team member Adam Christopher as the third high scorer. Team Coach Frank R. Stover, Jr., was also awarded a trip to the national finals.

The SC event is co-sponsored by Duke Energy, Progress Energy, SCANA, Inc., the SC Conservation Districts Association and Foundation.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Scientist plan and conduct the state competition.

Wayne Huddleston (left) with Duke Energy, Aynor Team members **Cameron Flowers**, **Daniel Rabon**, **Halley Sargent** and **David Page** with **Stacey Blazen**.

Pelion Team members **Adam Christopher** (left), **Savanna Williams**, and **James Shumpert** with **Frank R. Stover, Jr.** **Brooke Whitaker** could not be present for the photo but will participate in the national event.



Gilbert FFA Forestry Team to Compete Nationally

The **Gilbert FFA Forestry Team** took top honors in the state finals held at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College campus in Georgetown, SC, on December 1.

Team members and coach **Derrick Cooper** were awarded trips to the National FFA Convention to compete in the national finals. **Samantha Mack** was the high scorer followed by **Zachary Taylor**, second high scorer, and **Michael Emmer**, third high scorer. **Nathan Price** was also on the team.

The **Barnwell County Career Center** team was state Runner-up and the **Thurmond Technology Center** team placed third.

The event, sponsored by **Horry-Georgetown Technical College**, is planned and coordinated by Forestry and Wildlife Academic Chair **Brian J. Clark** with assistance from Forestry Professor **DeAnna Eddy**. **Resource Management Services** in Georgetown presented the top team members a personalized timber cruising vest.



FFA Advisor **Derrick Cooper** (left) with team members **Samantha Mack**, **Nathan Price**, **Michael Emmer** and **Zachary Taylor**.

Pelion FFA Wildlife Team Takes Top State Honors

The **Pelion High School FFA Wildlife Management Team** took first place honors in the state finals held at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College campus in Georgetown, SC. **Jim Westerhold**, associate professor of Wildlife, planned and coordinated the event.

Team members and coach **Frank R. Stover, Jr.**, were awarded trips to the National FFA Convention.

High scorer **Savanna Williams** was presented a \$250 scholarship by the BASF Corporation. **Adam Christopher** was the second high scorer. **Brooke Whitaker** and **James Shumpert** were also members of the team. **Macey Padgett** and **Ashley Bazemore** served as alternates.

The **Lexington Technology Center** Team was the Runner-up and the **Anderson District I & II Technology Center** Team was third.

Angel Henderson, of the **Strom Thurmond Technology Center** Team, also received a \$250 scholarship from the BASF Corporation as a high scorer in the competition.

The state event is sponsored and conducted by **Horry-Georgetown Technical College** along with the **BASF Corporation** and the **Georgetown County Conservation District**.



Seated left to right **Brooke Whitaker** and **Savanna Williams**. Standing from left is Coach **Frank R. Stover, Jr.**, and team members **Macey Padgett**, **Adam Christopher**, **James Shumpert** and **Ashley Bazemore**.

B. J. Skelton FFA Equine Team to Compete in National Finals

The **B. J. Skelton Career Center** FFA Equine Science Team took first place honors in the state competition held at the **Welcome Ranch** near Williamston, SC, in December.

Team members and Advisor **Steve McCannon** were awarded trips to the 2008 National FFA Convention to participate in the National Finals. **Tony LaBrecque** was the high individual scorer in the state event. **Caitlin Raines**, president of the B.J. Skelton Career Center FFA Chapter, served as student coach for this team.

The **Laurens** Team was named State Runner-Up and the **Woodmont** Team took third place honors. Emily House, a member of the **Mid-Carolina** Team, was the second high scorer and **Meridith Walker**, a member of the **Union Chapter** was the third high scorer.

FFA Advisor **Steve McCannon** (left) with team members **Jordan Andrews**, **Julie Nowaczck**, **Kandace Smith** and **Tony LaBrecque**. Student coach **Caitlin Rains** is at right.



Blythewood and Lexington FFA Chapters Featured on Major TV News Show

Blythewood FFA members along with Advisor Tom Willingham were featured on a number of segments during the two-hour WIS-TV Morning News Show "Live With Lucas" on Thursday, November 1, 2007, hosted by Newscaster Lucas McFadden. The show which originated from the campus of Blythewood High School included demonstrations and discussions about the equine industry. Many of the participants are also members of the Blythewood High School Equine Club.

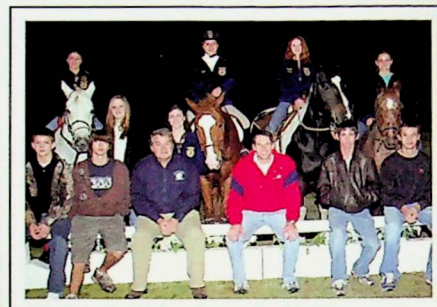
Mr. Willingham, chairman of the Richland County Farm-City Week Executive Committee, discussed the upcoming observance held the week before Thanksgiving and designed to emphasize the importance and interdependence of rural and urban sectors of our society.

The Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter was featured on the WIS-TV show on Tuesday, December 4, along with other educational programs at the Center. The FFA segment originated live from the new state-of-the-art greenhouse filled with beautiful poinsettias and other plants.

FFA Advisor Tommy Harmon along with Chapter President Will Amick and other members discussed the successful production and marketing of poinsettias and other plants. Mr. McFadden wrapped a poinsettia plant live on TV after watching a demonstration by one of the students. The show took place one day before the annual FFA-sponsored plant sale at the Center.



WIS-TV Newscaster **Lucas McFadden** (left) with **Tommy Harmon** and **Will Amick**.



WIS-TV Newscaster **Lucas McFadden** (center) takes time for a group photo with Blythewood FFA members and Advisor **Tom Willingham**.

Cooperative Awareness Seminar Held at Clemson

A select group of Agricultural Educators and Clemson University Agriculture students participated in a Cooperative Awareness Seminar in October at the Madren Center on the Clemson campus.

The Seminar was planned and coordinated by Marie Stiles, executive director of the SC Cooperative Council, in concert with Dr. Phil M. Fravel, Agricultural Education faculty member at Clemson, and John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association.

Participants and presenters enjoyed a luncheon in the Season's by the Lake Restaurant prior to the beginning of the event which was held in the Clemson University Board of Trustees Conference Room at the Center.

Some of the seminar participants shown here seated from left are: Lisa Johnson, Agricultural Education Instructor at Pendleton; Darla Simons, Agricultural Education graduate student; and Beth Ann Melton, Agricultural Education student; Standing from left: Ben Gibson, Agricultural Education student; Tim Keown, Agricultural Education Instructor at Crescent; Amy Williams, Agricultural Education student and president of the Collegiate FFA; Barry Burdette, Agricultural Education Instructor at Golden Strip Career Center; Hunter Cooper, State FFA Secretary; Audie Green, Agricultural Education Instructor at Anderson District I & II Technology Center; Abbie Piotrowsky, Agricultural Education Instructor at B. J. Skelton Career Center; Bryan Lowman, Horticulture student; and Samuel Hall, Agricultural Economics student.



Yon Awarded Scholarship at State Fair

FFA member **Sally Yon**, a junior at Ridge Spring-Monetta High School, was awarded a \$2500 college scholarship by the SC Farm Bureau for her success in growing and showing beef cattle. The presentation was made by **Ron Quesinberry**, an official with the Farm Bureau, at the Junior Beef Show held during the 2007 State Fair. **Gary Goodman**, Manager of the SC State Fair, is at right.

Selection for the scholarship is based on a written exam, showmanship skills and overall knowledge of the beef industry.

The daughter of Kevin and Lydia Yon of Ridge Spring, Sally was the recipient of a \$1500 scholarship from the SC Farm Bureau in 2006 for her accomplishments in the swine showmanship competition. Her FFA Advisor is Michael Crim, Agricultural Education Instructor at Ridge Spring-Monetta High School.



Pelion FFA Member Sells Top Dairy Animal

Ashley Sox, a member and officer of the Pelion FFA Chapter, sold the top-priced animal in the Dairy Heifer Sale held during the State Fair in October. Her Holstein heifer sold for \$4000 which is the second highest price paid for an animal in the history of the event.

An excellent showman of dairy and beef cattle, Ashley has an enviable record of successful accomplishments in cattle shows throughout the region for a number of years.

A senior at Pelion High School, Ashley plans to enroll in Midlands Technical College this fall.

Pelion Agricultural Education Instructor **Frank R. Stover, Jr.**, is Ashley's FFA advisor.



Ashley Sox and her father, Richard Sox with the top selling Holstein heifer.

Waggoner Awarded Agriculture Commissioner's Cup

Emily Waggoner, a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter, was awarded the State Commissioner of Agriculture's Cup in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in dairying.

Criteria for selecting the recipient of this prestigious award includes the student's success in the dairy business, production of top quality animals, showmanship skills and overall knowledge of the dairy industry.

The presentation was made by State Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers at the closing session of the Junior Dairy Cattle Show held at the State Fair in October.

The daughter of Steve and Kitty Waggoner of Pendleton, SC, Emily is a junior at Clemson University majoring in Animal and Veterinary Science.

Pendleton FFA member **Emily Waggoner** with Dairy Judge **Craig Padgett** of Waynesburg, Kentucky (center), and State Commissioner of Agriculture **Hugh Weathers**.



Hillcrest FFA President Excels in Beef Showmanship

Savannah Groce has an enviable record of accomplishments growing and showing Black Angus cattle. Her first big show was the Eastern Regional in Maryland. Since then, she has shown Angus cattle in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and South Carolina.

An active member of the National Junior Angus Association and the SC Junior Angus Association, Savannah serves as secretary-treasurer of the state organization. She was named the SC Angus Princess in 2005 and the SC Angus Queen in 2006.

In 2006, Savannah won the Grand Champion Intermediate Division Showmanship Award at the SC Junior Beef Round-Up competing against participants from SC, NC and Georgia. She has won numerous savings bonds and scholarships showing her cattle.

Savannah is president of the Hillcrest FFA Chapter. Her supervised agriculture experience program consists of managing her Black Angus herd. In her spare time, she works at the Cedar Lake Animal Hospital.



McBee FFA Chapter Awarded Grant

The McBee FFA Chapter has been awarded a \$12,500 grant by the Byerly Foundation of Hartsville, SC, to be used for designing, installing and maintaining an irrigation system on the McBee High School athletic fields.

"Titled 'Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve', the grant will provide students an opportunity to incorporate 'real world' skills as they plan, order supplies and install all of the parts," said Pat Earle, Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA advisor at the school. "This project will create a real life laboratory for the students to apply lessons learned in Agricultural Education classes," he added.

The project is unique in that the students are involved from the planning stages through completion of construction. It will beautify the campus which is a major attraction in the community and enhance the quality of life for students and other area residents.



Richard Puffer (left), Executive Director of the Byerly Foundation, reviews design plans for the irrigation system with McBee High School Student Body President **Spencer McLeod** who also serves as President of the SC FFA Association.

Marlboro FFA Members Growing Quality Vegetables

Marlboro County High School FFA members know the excitement of growing quality collard greens for sale to the public and the school district's Food and Nutrition Department for use in the school cafeterias.

According to **Kellon Hall**, Horticulture Instructor, collard seeds are planted in the greenhouse in August and transplanted in October into a garden which happens to be prime agricultural land on the school property. The two varieties of collard seed used are Georgia Giant and Morrison Heading.

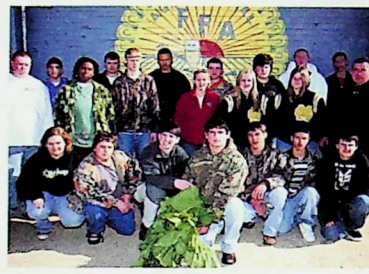
"The students experience a variety of learning opportunities including planting, fertilization, pest control, harvesting and marketing," Hall added. "More than \$500 of profit from the sale of fresh produce will be contributed to Relay for Life by the FFA chapter," he added.

One of the most impressive aspects of this unique Horticulture program is its emphasis on production, marketing and utilization of nutritious vegetables such as collards. The program also provides students an opportunity to discover careers available in the Food Science and Human Nutrition business which is expected to be among the fastest growing segments of the agriculture industry in the years ahead.

"The FFA members enrolled in Horticulture classes at Marlboro County High School understand the importance and necessity of agriculture because the production of safe and nutritious food is among the industry's highest priority," Mr. Hall said.



Left: FFA members **Cameron Quick**, **Wesley Hutchenson**, **Harvey Gause**, **Brandon Strickland** and **Whitney Odom** with Horticulture Instructor **Kellon Hall**.



Right: Marlboro FFA members enrolled in Horticulture classes are (from left front) **Courtney Milligan**, **Wesley Hutchenson**, **Fletcher Lee**, **Cameron Quick**, **Brandon Strickland** and **Brent McDonald**. From left in middle: **Albert Clark**, **Meiosa Depree**, **Harvey Gause**, **Miranda Ellis**, **Whitney Odom**, **Hannah Jones** with Horticulture Instructor **Kellon Hall**. From left in back: **Brandon Norton**, **Wes English**, **Michael Brigan**, **Allen Owens**, **Blake Quick**, **Johnathan Beggs** and **Patrick Hannan**.

Crescent FFA Chapter Livestock Show

Crescent High School FFA Chapter's Livestock Show is one of the Agricultural Education highlights of the year for members, advisors, parents, school administrators and others.

Twenty five FFA members and at least ten students from the Starr-Iva Middle School demonstrate their skill at showing top quality beef animals to a large crowd of friends and supporters. The FFA members compete for scholarships and a trip to the National FFA Convention.

At the end of the show, parents, grandparents, school board members, faculty and administrators enter the show ring with a borrowed animal and compete for showmanship honors.

This annual show marks the beginning of Crescent FFA members' participation in livestock competition at fairs across the upstate, north Georgia and the South Carolina State Fair where they exhibit the largest number of beef cattle of any FFA chapter in the state.

Crescent Agricultural Education Instructors **Tim Keown** and **Roger Estridge** serve as the FFA advisors.

Pictured: Crescent FFA member **Cory Watt** was awarded an expense-paid trip to the National FFA Convention as a result of his superb showmanship skills. With him is FFA advisor **Tim Keown**; **Katie Smith**, a University of Georgia student majoring in Animal Science who served as the judge; and FFA advisor **Roger Estridge**.



Nicholson Named Youth Ambassador Scholarship Winner

Joshua Nicholson, a senior at Saluda High School, where he is serving as president of the FFA chapter, was named a state winner of the SC Farm Bureau's Youth Ambassador Scholarship Contest at the annual state conference in Myrtle Beach in December.

The Ambassador Program, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, is designed to promote young leaders to tell the farm story to audiences who might not otherwise hear it.

Joshua received \$500 in cash, a college scholarship valued at \$2000 and an Apple iPod nano MP3 recorder/player.

Amanda Nichols, Agricultural Education Instructor at Saluda High School, is Joshua's FFA advisor.



Holmes Awarded Scholarship at Natural Resources Institute

Jonathan Holmes of Johnston, a member and past officer of the Strom Thurmond Technology Center FFA Chapter, was awarded a \$500 scholarship at the closing session of the South Carolina Natural Resources Institute held at Lander University in Greenwood this summer.

The scholarship was sponsored by the South Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Society, a cooperating partner with the Institute.

Scholarship recipients are determined by an examination on the subject matter discussed and hands-on experiences related to natural resources throughout the week.

Jonathan is a student at Clemson University majoring in Horticulture.

The Institute is co-sponsored by Lander University, the SC Department of Natural Resources, the SC Association of Conservation Districts and the SC Conservation Districts Foundation.



FFA Chapters Decorate State Fair Facility

The **Aiken High School** and **Marion Technical Education Center** FFA Chapters grew and contributed beautiful flowering plants to decorate the George B. Nutt Livestock Arena at the South Carolina State Fair held October 10-21, 2007.

This was the third year the two chapters provided plants grown by FFA members as a part of their hands-on training in Horticulture classes.

State Fair officials displayed a sign from the top center of the facility to recognize the chapters and inform the thousands who visited the arena who had provided the plants.

Aiken High School Horticulture Instructor **Meghan McPhail** and Marion Technical Education Center Horticulture Instructor **Linwood Chestnut** serve as advisors to their respective chapters.



Gilbert FFA Rodeo Was Outstanding Success

A record breaking crowd from throughout the southeast attended the two-day **Gilbert High School FFA Rodeo** at the Murray Town B Arena near Gilbert on October 19-20.

The Rodeo, affiliated with the Southern Rodeo Association, was professionally produced by Rockin'R Rodeo, LLC. Herndon Chevrolet of Lexington, SC, was the primary sponsor. A number of other supporters made contributions including the purchase of large advertising signs which were prominently displayed around the arena.

FFA Advisor **Derrick Cooper**, an Agricultural Education Instructor at Gilbert High School, expressed appreciation to the hundreds of friends and supporters who made the Rodeo a great success. "All proceeds from the event will go to support the programs of the Gilbert FFA Chapter," he said.



Orangeburg County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Seminar

The Orangeburg County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter held a Risk Management Seminar on Commodity Hedging in October 2007. The event was funded by the USDA Risk Management Agency and conducted by Glen Arnold, a commodity hedging consultant from Cochran, Georgia. An overflow crowd was present for the educational seminar held at the Orangeburg County Agricultural Center.

"The funding and seminar came at an ideal time because commodity prices are at all time history highs," Arnold said.

James Ulmer, Agricultural Education Instructor at Lake Marion High School and Technology Center, serves as advisor to the adult group. **Antron Williams** is the chapter president.

For additional information on risk management in commodity hedging contact Mr. Arnold at 478-934-1244.

Picture: **James Ulmer** (left), Chapter Advisor, with **Winford Pace**, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; **Glen Arnold**, Commodity Risk Management Consultant, and **Antron Williams**, Chapter President.



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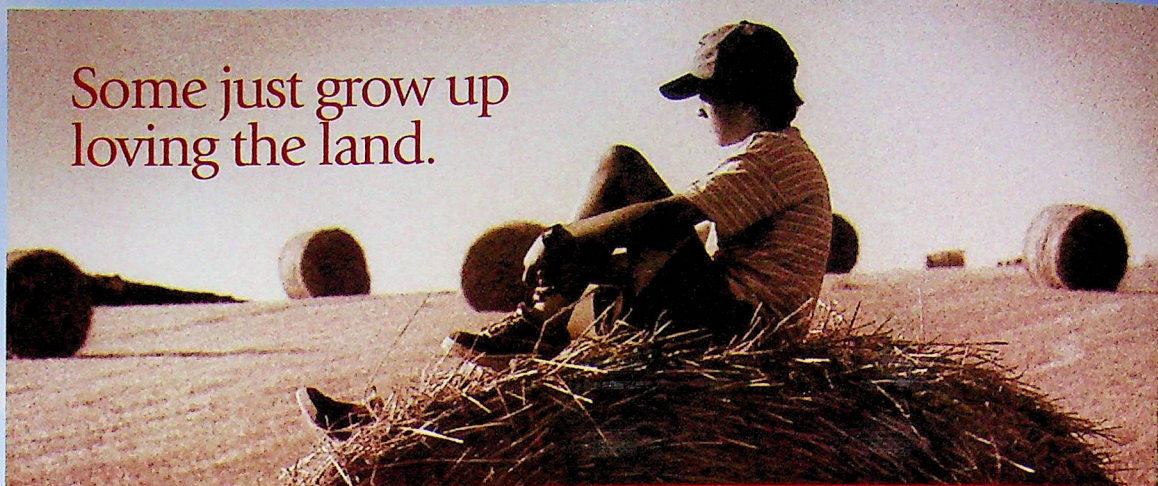
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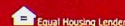
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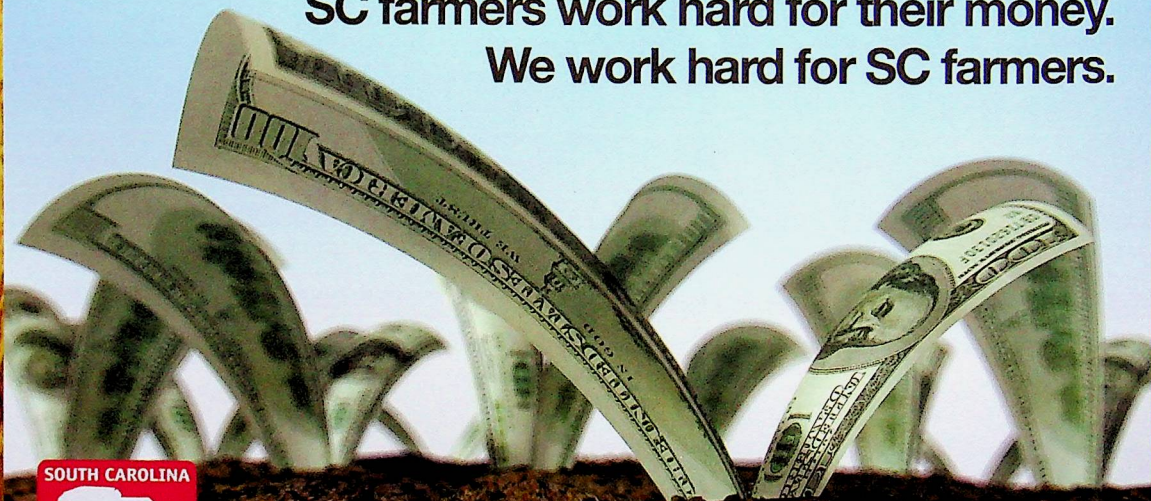
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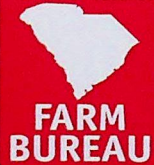
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